have also supported various resolutions in the UN and other international fora in this regard.

We have noted that during the recent months the Government of Myanmar have released a number of elected representatives and party workers. A National Convention has also been called for drafting a new Constitution.

We continue to support the restoration of a democratic government in Myanmar—within the parameters of our policy to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of another country.

News item in Madurai Edition of Indian Express

2755. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item "Cruel interludes of an Indian House maid" appeared in Indian Express Madurai Edition dated 11th September, 1993;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) how many such cases were brought to the notice of Government and in how many cases Government have taken action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 11th September, 1993 and obtained a detailed reporte on the matter.

On receipt of a representation in March, 1993 regarding the well being of Kumari Anjammal who had been in Kuwait since 1992, Government had asked the Embassy of India in Kuwait to make necessary enquiries and to provide whatever assistance was required. The Mission contacted the sponsor and succeeded in arranging for him to bring Kumari Anjammal to the Mission to check on her wellbeing. She was interviewed at the Embassy of India, Kuwait on June 2, 1993 by a Tamil speaking official. Her sponsor was not present. She said She had no complaint whatsoever. She was also taken to meet a senior officer. Facilities for interpretation from Tamil into Hindi were provided. At this interview also she did not make any complaint of any physical torture. No burn scars were visible on her. At the Embassy's suggestion she handed in a personal letter to be despatched through the Embassay. She was repatriated directly by her sponsor to India in July, 1993. The allegation of indifference and insensitivity on the part of the Indian Embassy is baseless.

Following the appearance of the news item, an Embassy representative met her sponsor Mohammed Al Mendi with whom she had reportedly worked for about one and half years. Her sponsor complained that she had run away from his house on three occasions and reemployed her each time. He maintained he was not liable to pay her salary for the period of her absence. He furnished receipts of remittances to India for KD 105.750 (approximately Rs. 11,000) and for purchase of gold by her worth KD 52 (approximately Rs. 5,500/-). He also informed the Embassy that the envelope sent by her through the Embassy contained a draft for KD 80 (approximately Rs. 8,500/-) and that an equal sum was given to her at the time of her departure to India. As regards fare for her return journey, she had not worked with him for a full period of 2 years and therefore her sponsor adjusted her salary dues against the air ticket costing Rs. 14,000/- approximately. This information is being sent to Kumari Anjammal.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.